

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 6423

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TAGS: PFOR, PL, US

SUBJECT: GIEREK VISIT: DISCUSSION CONTINUES

1.SUMMARY. MEDIA POST-MORTEMS ON THE VISIT CONTINUED THROUGH-
OUT THE WEEK OF GIEREK'S RETURN WITH AN APPARENT EFFORT TO
BALANCE THE PREVIOUS WEEK'S STRESS ON THE VISIT'S BILATERAL
ASPECTS BY EMPHASIZING ITS MULTILATERAL IMPACT. ADDITIONALLY,
GIEREK REPORTED TO A JOINT SESSION OF THE POLITBIURO AND
PRESIDIUM ON OCTOBER 15, WHICH SUBSEQUENTLY ISSUED INSTRU-
CTIONS AIMED AT IMPLEMENTING THE AGREEMENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. A JOINT POLITBIURO-PRESIDIUM SESSION ON OCTOBER 15
APPROVED "IN FULL" THE RESULTS OF GIEREK'S VISIT, ACKNOW-
LEDGING IT AS AN "EXPRESSION" OF THE PRINCIPLES OF PEACEFUL
COEXISTENCE AND NOTING THAT IT HAD OPENED "NEW PROSPECTS"
FOR FURTHERING BILATERAL RELATIONS AND HAD MADE AN "ESSENTIAL
CONTRIBUTION" TO DETENTE. THE JOINT SESSION "ADVISED" GOVERN-
MENT AGENCIES TO UNDERTAKE STEPS TOWARD "FULL IMPLEMENTATION"
OF THE AGREEMENTS SIGNED IN WASHINGTON.

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3. THE MEDIA HAVE GENERALLY BEEN EMPHASIZING THE VISIT'S BROADER ASPECTS, PARTICULARLY AS AN EXPRESSION OF DETENTE AND PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE. FOR EXAMPLE, RYSZARD WOJNA, WRITING IN THE OCTOBER 16 ISSUE OF TRYBUNA LUDU, REITERATED THE IMPORTANCE POLAND ATTACHES TO COORDINATION OF SOCIALIST FOREIGN POLICIES AND TO THE "POSITIVE" CHANGES WROUGHT BY IMPROVED US-SOVIET RELATIONS. HE FURTHER ASSERTED THAT EVEN THE DOCUMENTS RESULTING FROM GIEREK'S VISIT THAT ARE BILATERAL IN NATURE HAVE A BROADER SIGNIFICANCE AS EXAMPLES OF THE POSSIBILITIES OF MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES OF DIFFERING SOCIAL SYSTEMS. WOJNA ADVANCED AN INTERESTING CONTENTION CONCERNING CSCE BY SUGGESTING THAT THE US-POLISH ALIGNMENT OF POSITIONS, FOLLOWING A SIMILAR ALIGNMENT BY THE US AND USSR, "HAS OUTPACED THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE AND CANNOT GO UNNOTICED" IN GENEVA.

4. ADAM WYSOCKI IN ZYCIE WARSZAWY ON OCTOBER 15 ADDED A NEW TWIST IN PORTRAYING THE US-POLISH AGREEMENTS AS A "LOGICAL EXTENSION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THOSE RELATIONS LINKING POLAND TO FRANCE, THE SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES, AND ALSO, IN EVER GREATER MEASURE, TO WESTERN NATIONS SUCH AS THE FRG." HE CONCLUDED THAT WITH FULFILLMENT OF THE WASHINGTON AGREEMENTS THERE IS THE "CHANCE" FOR THE US TO BECOME POLAND'S "LEADING ECONOMIC PARTNER" IN THE WEST.

5. ASSESSING US FOREIGN POLICY IN THE OCTOBER 12 POLITYKA, MIECZYSLAW RAKOWSKI MADE THE POINT THAT THE AMERICAN LEADERSHIP AND PUBLIC OPINION RECOGNIZE THAT THE IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE WILL CONTINUE AND THEY ARE PREPARED TO PURSUE IT EFFECTIVELY UNDER CONDITIONS OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE. RAKOWSKI ASSESSED THE VISIT ITSELF IN THIS WEEK'S POLITYKA, CONCLUDING THAT IT WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY THREE FACTORS WHICH HE CITED IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER: 1) WESTERN ACCEPTANCE OF THE POLICY OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE, 2) POLAND'S ACHIEVEMENT OF A CERTAIN LEVEL OF SOCIAL-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND 3) POLAND'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIALIST COMMUNITY. AS NOTEWORTHY ELEMENTS OF THE VISIT, RAKOWSKI SINGLED OUT: 1) THE PREDOMINANCE OF BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS, 2) THE "GREAT INTEREST" AROUSED AMONG POLONIA, AND 3) THE VISIT'S CONFIDENTIAL

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TRIBUTION TO DETENTE.

6. RAKOWSKI AND OTHERS WHO HAVE MENTIONED THE DEMONSTRATIONS THAT OCCURRED DURING THE VISIT HAVE PLAYED THEM DOWN, EMPHASIZING THE SMALL NUMBER OF PERSONS INVOLVED AND ALLEGING THAT SOME WERE RECRUITED OFF THE STREETS FOR PAY AND OTHERS REPRESENTED IRRECONCILABLES OF VARIOUS NON-POLISH NATIONALITIES.

7. A PRESTIGE FACTOR HAS CROPPED UP IN SOME COMMENTARY. EUGENIUSZ PIONTEK (PRAWO I ZYCIA) AND WLADYSLAW MACHEJEK (ZYCIE LITERACKI) HAVE PARTICULARLY EMPHASIZED POLAND AS AN "IMPORTANT PARTNER" PLAYING AN "ACTIVE ROLE" IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. MACHEJEK SEEMED ALMOST DEFENSIVE IN WRITING THAT "WE WILL BE NO LESS POLISH IF WE SAY" THAT GIEREK "REPRESENTED THE VIEWS OF ALL" SOCIALIST STATES IN HIS WASHINGTON TALKS.

8. THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE FIRST SECRETARY'S OWN PERSONALITY, HIS STAMINA, AND SENSE OF HUMOR, TO THE SUCCESS OF THE VISIT IS LAUDED BY WIESLAW GORNICKI IN PRZEKROJ'S OCTOBER 20 ISSUE. GORNICKI DESCRIBES IN MOVING AND, FOR HIM, SURPRISINGLY UNCYNICAL TERMS HOW GIEREK, RELAXING AMONG POLISH OFFICIALS AND NEWSMEN JUST BEFORE LEAVING NEW YORK, RAISED A TOAST TO THE POLISH PEOPLE WHO "WITH ALL THEIR STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES" WERE THE "TRUE ARCHITECTS OF THE SUCCESS" OF THE VISIT. REFLECTING ON GIEREK'S WORDS GORNICKI CONCLUDES THAT THE VISIT WAS THE "CLEAREST CONFIRMATION" OF THE "OBJECTIVE CORRECTNESS" OF THE PATH CHOSEN 30 YEARS AGO.

9. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN EXPRESSIONS OF PRAISE AND GRATITUDE FOR THE EFFORT EXPENDED BY US OFFICIALS. RAKOWSKI IN THE ABOVE-MENTIONED ASSESSMENT CREDITS DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS IN LARGE PART FOR THE VISIT'S SUCCESS, NOTING THAT MANY OF THOSE WHO WORKED ON THE VISIT "KNOW POLAND AND WARSAW FROM THEIR SERVICE AT THE EMBASSY."

10. COMMENT: A POLISH JOURNALIST TOLD US OCTOBER 18 THAT HE HAS BEEN UNDER SOME PRESSURE FROM HIS EDITOR TO TONE DOWN HIS DRAFTS AND TO PLAY UP THE DETENTE SIDE OF THE VISIT. HE NOTED THAT THE SOVIETS, AND ALSO THE CZECHS AND EAST GERMANS, "ARE WATCHING US" ON THIS. HOWEVER, HE OBSERVED THAT THE "BALANCE" WOULD BE RESTORED WHEN HIS PUBLICATION COMES OUT WITH ITS CONFIDENTIAL

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ISSUE FEATURING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOLSHEVIK REVOLUTION IN EARLY NOVEMBER. NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID, THE MAGAZINE PLANS A SERIES OF PICTORIAL ESSAYS ON AMERICAN CITIES FOR SUCCESSIVE EDITIONS. THUS, ALTHOUGH THE VOLUME OF COVERAGE HAS DIMINISHED, THERE ARE SIGNS OF CONTINUING HIGH MEDIA INTEREST IN THE UNITED STATES.
DAVIES

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